

## **XVIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The State of Iowa provides the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of individuals with disabilities, a full opportunity to review and present comments on proposed policies and procedures.

When proposing to adopt new policies and procedures, the State of Iowa provides public notice in newspapers and other media.

The notice is provided enough in advance to allow interested parties a reasonable opportunity to participate in public hearings. Policies and procedures are made available for comment for a period of at least 60 days following the notice. Public notice includes detailed information about the proposed policies and procedures and allows the general public to understand the purpose and scope of the proposal and its relation to serving eligible individuals. The notice also includes information about the availability of proposed policies and procedures for public review; the date, time and location of public hearings; a description of the procedures for submitting written comments; and the timetable for submitting policies and procedures to the Secretary for review. Public hearings are conducted at times and places that allow interested parties throughout the State a reasonable opportunity to participate. The Department of Education uses technology to facilitate public participation such as web access and providing for public comment over the Iowa cable network.

Following public hearings and before adoption of proposed policies and procedures, the State of Iowa reviews and considers all public comment and makes any necessary modifications in proposed policies and procedures.

Following the Secretary's approval of policies and procedures, the State of Iowa gives notice in newspapers and other media of such approval. This notice provides information regarding places throughout the state where the policies and procedures are available to any interested person.

### **Legal References**

#### **Federal Requirements:**

20 USC 1412 (a)(19)..... Public Participation

#### **Iowa Requirements**

Iowa Administrative Procedures Act 17.A.3

Public information – adoption of rules – availability of rules and ordinances